

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1** (original) A multi-pitch screw wherein the thread of a screw is formed such that sections having a mild lead angle and sections having a steep lead angle are continuous alternately during a single turn along a spiral line.

**Claim 2** (original) The multi-pitch screw according to claim 1 wherein the lead angle of said section having a mild lead angle is zero (flat).

**Claim 3** (original) The multi-pitch screw according to claim 1 wherein the lead angle of said section having a steep lead angle is steeper than a self-lock angle.

**Claim 4** (currently amended) The multi-pitch screw according to [any one of claims 1-3] claim 1 wherein said screw is a multi-threaded screw.

**Claim 5** (currently amended) The multi-pitch screw according to [any one of claims 1-4] claim 1 wherein said thread of the screw does not exist but in partial section during a single turn along the spiral line and has sections in which the thread is missing.

**Claim 6** (original) The multi-pitch screw according to claim 5 wherein said threads of the screw exist only at positions rotationally symmetrical to each other with respect to the axial line of the screw.

**Claim 7** (currently amended) The multi-pitch screw according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~ wherein said thread of the screw is formed with only a section in which said lead angle is zero (flat) and when the flank of the thread of the screw keeps a facial contact with the pressure side flank in a section in which the lead angle of the thread of a female screw is zero, an end of the thread of the screw keeps a linear contact with a position deflected in phase (position having a different rotation angle) on a play side flank of the female screw.

**Claim 8** (currently amended) The multi-pitch screw according to claims 5 ~~or 6~~ wherein said thread of the screw has sections in which said lead angle is zero (flat) and sections in which the lead angle is steep, these sections being continuous and in a phase where the flank of the thread of the screw makes contact with the flank of the thread of the female screw, the pressure side flank of the female screw keeps a facial contact with the play side flank at a position deflected in phase (position having a different rotation angle).

**Claim 9** (original) A multi-pitch nut wherein the thread of a female screw is formed such that a section in which the lead angle is mild and a section in which the lead angle is steep are arranged alternately and continuously during a single turn along the spiral line.

**Claim 10** (original) The multi-pitch nut according to claim 9 wherein the lead angle of the section in which said lead angle is mild is zero (flat).

**Claim 11** (original) The multi-pitch nut according to claim 9 wherein the lead angle of said section having a steep lead angle is steeper than a self-lock angle.

**Claim 12** (currently amended) The multi-pitch nut according to [any one of claims 9-11] claim 9 wherein said female screw is a multi-threaded screw.

**Claim 13** (currently amended) The multi-pitch nut according to [any one of claims 9-12] claim 9 wherein said thread of the female screw does not exist but in partial section during a single turn along the spiral line and has sections in which the thread is missing.

**Claim 14** (original) The multi-pitch nut according to claim 13 wherein said threads of the female screw exist only at positions rotationally symmetrical to each other with respect to the axial line of the screw.

**Claim 15** (currently amended) The multi-pitch nut according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~ wherein said thread of the female screw is formed with only a section in which said lead angle is zero (flat) and when the flank of the thread of the female screw keeps a facial contact with the pressure side flank in a section in which the lead angle of the thread of a male screw is zero, an end of the thread of the female screw keeps a linear contact with a position deflected in phase (position having a different rotation angle) on a play side flank of the male screw.

**Claim 16** (currently amended) The multi-pitch nut according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~ wherein said thread of the female screw has sections in which said lead angle is zero (flat) and sections in which the lead angle is steep, these sections being continuous and in a phase where the flank of the thread of the female screw makes contact with the flank of the thread of the male screw, the

pressure side flank of the male screw keeps a facial contact with the play side flank at a position deflected in phase (position having a different rotation angle).

**Claim 17** (currently amended) A feed screw device wherein the multi-pitch screw described in [any one of claims 1-4] claim 1 and the multi-pitch nut [described in any one of claims 9-16] wherein the thread of a female screw is formed such that a section in which the lead angle is mild and a section in which the lead angle is steep are arranged alternately and continuously during a single turn along the spiral line are combined.

**Claim 18** (currently amended) A feed screw mechanism wherein the multi-pitch screw described in [any one of claims 5-8] claim 5 and ~~the~~ a multi-pitch nut [described in any one of claims 9-12] wherein the thread of a female screw is formed such that a section in which the lead angle is mild and a section in which the lead angle is steep are arranged alternately and continuously during a single turn along the spiral line are combined.

**Claim 19** (currently amended) A multi-pitch nut manufacturing method for manufacturing the nut described in [any one of claims 13-16] claim 13 comprising: an element step of forming an element sheet material in which a hole corresponding to a screw groove of a female screw is drilled and which has a thread protrusion corresponding to part of the thread of the female screw protruded toward the center of the hole from the periphery of the hole; and a stacking step of stacking the element sheet materials so that they are fixed integrally.